

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0027]** Referring to FIG. 5, another alternative preferred embodiment of a bipolar plate assembly 260 of the present invention is illustrated. In this embodiment, the upper sub-plate 262 is formed with a series of hydrogen channels 266 spaced relatively far apart; forming relatively wide land regions 267, 269. The lower sub-plate 264 includes a pair of narrower channels that nest between the hydrogen flow channels 266 in the wider channels 270 of the upper sub-plate created by the wide land regions 267. This allows three separate channels 268, 270, 268 to be formed in this area when the sub plates 262, 264 are nested together. The two of these channels 268 which are open to the cathode side of the MEA provide oxygen flow paths. The third channel 270 is confined between the two sub-plates 262, 264 and provides a coolant flow path 270. In order to accommodate the three channels 268, 270, 268, the land regions 267 are generally the width of the three channels 268, 270, 268 combined. The hydrogen flow path 266 is provided adjacent to these three flow paths which is open to the anode side of the MEA. ~~This configuration also allows the diffusion distance for the cathode side to be similar to that of a conventional configuration.~~